

**STATEMENT OF SENATOR LARRY E. CRAIG**  
**SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING**  
**“BREAKING THE SILVER CEILING: A NEW**  
**GENERATION OF OLDER AMERICANS**  
**REDEFINING THE NEW RULES OF THE WORKPLACE”**

Good Morning. All too often we come together to discuss a multitude of problems affecting senior Americans. On this Committee we get heavily involved in such weighty questions as the cost and benefits of medicare, health care in general and nursing home care in particular and concerns with social security. We are, because of our mission, often times consumed by the study of these problems and overlook the invaluable contributions seniors give to our country.

Senior citizens seek to live comfortably in their advancing years as well as meet the rising financial costs associated with medical care and everyday living expenses. As our population ages we are seeing trends where people in their senior years yearn to continue participation in our country's vibrant economy so as to meet their needs. Therefore, we need to focus our attention on these trends and to study the value of the contributions made by seniors in our workforce. I commend Senator Breaux and his staff for what they place on our oversight table today for public consideration.

I want to thank all of our witnesses for being here today. This is a most important inquiry and I look forward to hearing your testimony.